

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: May 31, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on May 19, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Five-Year Review Site Inspection Completed, J & L Landfill
Superfund Site, Rochester Hills, Michigan**

On May 16, 2006, a site inspection for the Five-Year Review Report was completed at the J & L Landfill Superfund Site in Rochester Hills, Michigan. The inspection found the site to be secure, in proper condition for operation and maintenance, and to have some minor issues that need to be addressed.

The J & L Landfill site remedy includes a constructed multi-layer Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste cap and operation & maintenance monitoring. The property was previously used for sand and gravel mining before becoming a landfill and a Superfund site.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Inspections,
Chicago, Illinois**

On May 18, 2006, George Rancich, and William Sandstrom, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS), conducted two Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspections in Chicago, Illinois. The facilities

inspected were Mickey's Linen and Towel Supply, Inc., and Five Star Hotel Laundry. These facilities are involved in large scale laundering operations using highly alkaline cleaning solutions containing sodium hydroxide and other hazardous chemicals. In addition, some facilities in this Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code use sulfuric acid to control the pH of their effluent waste water. These inspections are a continuation of the sector initiative involving large laundering facilities, which is being conducted by CEPPS in Region 5. The inspections are conducted to determine if the facilities have hazardous chemical reporting requirements under EPCRA 312 and their compliance with those requirements. To date, eight facilities have been brought into compliance as a result of the initiative inspections. The results of these latest inspections will be reviewed by CEPPS to determine if follow up action is required.

Contacts: George Rancich (312-886-6148)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, AlSCO Anaconda Superfund Site,
Gnadenhutten, Ohio**

On May 9, 2006, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to officially open the Southern Gateway Nature Park. The nature park resides on a portion of the former AlSCO Anaconda Superfund site, Gnadenhutten, Ohio. The AlSCO Anaconda Superfund site was construction completed in 1996 and delisted in 2002. The seven acre nature park hosts a variety of native plants and will provide hands-on opportunities for a better understanding of the animals, plants, soils, and the river by the local students. The event was attended by the Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners (TCPA), the TCPA Board of Directors, Gnadenhutten Mayor David Zimmerman, Indian Valley Local Schools staff & students, local residents, and other distinguished guests from organizations who have partnered with the TCPA throughout the nature park project. The Indian Valley High Marching Band performed the national anthem prior to the ceremony. Speakers at the event included Mike Noretto, of the Tuscarawas County Port Authority Board of Directors; John Magill of the Ohio Department of Development; Joe Koncelick, Director of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Tom Short of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Congressman Bob Ney of Ohio's 18th Congressional District. In addition, Jason Hassel, Chief Financial Officer for Plymouth Foam Company, headquartered in Wisconsin, spoke briefly regarding the strong possibility of his company occupying the former AlSCO Aluminum plant.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES**Ardent Sentry 2006 Exercise, Lansing, Michigan**

On May 8-12, 2006, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) James Justice and Response Section 1 Chief Jason El-Zein participated in the Michigan/Ontario Venue Simulation Cell as part of the Ardent Sentry '06 National Exercise. The exercise was comprised of several "simulation cells" located at various venues around the country and staffed by U.S. EPA personnel to simulate and exercise U.S. EPA's role in multiple large scale response efforts under the National Response Plan (NRP). U.S. EPA's main role was to simulate response actions and authorities under the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and the NRP, and its roles under the various Emergency Support Functions following a Stafford Act declaration. The Michigan/Ontario Venue was comprised of three distinct responses related to terrorist actions which included a 20,000 gallon chlorine release, the detonation of a Cesium-137 radiological dispersion device in Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario, and the release of 20,000 gallons of phosgene. U.S. EPA simulated its role and functions in initially responding to each of the incidents, simulated its role as part of the Joint Field Office set-up by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and coordinated efforts with representatives as part of the simulation with the National simulation cell. The exercise included field components that exercised local Hazmat Units and Michigan National Guard Units. The exercise was attended by representatives from many departments of the Michigan government, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Coast Guard, and various elements of the Department of Defense.

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Meeting, Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) Commissioners, Rock Island, Illinois

On May 18, 2006, Sheila Calovich (Oil Pollution Response Section) attended the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) Commissioners meeting that took place in Rock Island, Illinois. The meeting was an opportunity for the UMRBA to showcase projects that they have worked on with U.S. EPA Region 5. These projects included the Upper Mississippi River response plan and the Inland Sensitivity Atlas for Region 5. Ms. Calovich expressed her

appreciation for the work and direction provided by UMRBA for these U.S. EPA projects. There was also a presentation on the Spill of National Significance Exercise. Also in attendance from U.S. EPA Region 5 was Bill Franz (Water Division).

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

Meeting, Region 5 Regional Response Team, Minneapolis, Minnesota

On May 10-11, 2006, the Region 5 Regional Response Team met in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In attendance from the Emergency Response Branch #1 were Donald Bruce (Acting Chief), Ann Whelan, and Josie Clark. Topics included: 1) Avian Flu Discussion by Dr. Michelle Waters (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), 2) Savanna, Illinois, Net Environmental Benefit Analysis by David Hokanson (UMRBA), 3) In-Situ Burning by David Fritz (BP Oil), and 4) Spill of National Significance (SONS) Exercise Discussion. Action items include the formation of an In-Situ Burning sub-committee. There will be a compilation of Regional Response Team (RRT) agency environmental experts that can serve an Environmental Unit within an Incident Command System. Four of the Region 5 States were in attendance (Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). The next meeting will take place in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 25-26, 2006.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

Planning the 2006 National Conference, Managing Sediments in the Watershed, Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together, Portland, Oregon

The planning committee has held periodic conference calls since the Fall of 2005 in their effort to develop and finalize plans for the "2006 Conference on Managing Sediments in the Watershed: Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together", to be held August 26-31, 2006, in Portland, Oregon. The most recent calls, April 6, 18, and May 2, 2006, focused on finalizing the detailed agenda, developing a definition of the watershed and watershed approach, and developing a participant questionnaire for the identification of roles/interests which will be used in two of the sessions. The conference will feature a combination of presentations, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and case studies. The key focus issues include: address sources of sediment, including the contamination carried by sediment; evaluate better beneficial uses and disposal alternatives for sediment; and protection of ecological resources. The formal announcement was recently sent out. Conference sponsors are the

National Dredging Team and Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources. The purpose of the conference is to bring together representatives from across the programs and other agencies that are involved in sediment and dredged material issues to advance watershed approaches to sediment management. Bonnie Eleder is a participant on the planning committee representing the Great Lakes Dredging Team and Region 5.

Contact: Bonnie Eleder (312-886-4885)

Region 5 Hosts Meeting, U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board Committee, Chicago, Illinois

The U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) issued a notice in early 2006 seeking case studies in which ecological decision making processes would benefit from valuation approaches. The Region 5 Land Revitalization group proposed that the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure effort would serve as a useful example, and our proposal was selected by the SAB as a focus for their efforts. On April 21, 2006, the SAB brought seven professors and experts to Chicago from around the country to focus on this issue. Expertise represented at the meeting included economic valuation, intrinsic value of ecological function, philosophy, law, and social science. Region 5 brought in several experts from Chicago Wilderness to participate in this meeting. The SAB is utilizing this example as part of their discussions which are focusing on identifying which types of valuation tools and approaches can be most useful in application to on-the-ground public policy issues.

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Karen Bandhauer (312-353-2446)

Collaborative Cleanups II Conference, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire

On May 4-5, 2006, the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) and Office of Water hosted a conference on focusing on cleanup and redevelopment of sites within the context of watershed protection. Region 5 took an active role in the design and implementation of this conference, including input from Bob Newport (Water Division), Danielle Green (Great Lakes National Program Office), Karen Bandhauer (Superfund Division), and Jim Van der Kloot (Superfund Division). Karen Bandhauer designed and moderated a half-day breakout session on sustainable site redevelopment, focusing on watershed benefits. Ms. Bandhauer arranged for three presenters to be brought in from

Wisconsin for this session: Professor Ray Isaacs of the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Milwaukee architecture program, architecture graduate student Michael Kautzer of UW-Milwaukee, and landscape architecture student Eric Seidl of UW-Madison. Jim Van der Kloot gave the overview presentation. The session was very well received, and generated a series of recommendations focusing on how cleanups, redevelopment, and watershed protection issues can be addressed together through site design approaches.

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